

PLEASE DRIVE SAFE!



Whether you're driving a golf cart or a low-speed vehicle (LSV), it's essential to understand the rules and regulations that keep everyone safe on the road. This flyer will help clarify the differences between these vehicles, explain when and where they can be legally driven, and provide important safety information—especially for families with children and teens. One of the easiest things you can do is to BUCKLE UP!!! First, let's understand the difference between a golf cart and a Low Speed Vehicle:

Golf Cart (CVC §345):

- Motor vehicle with 3+ wheels
- Weighs less than 1,300 pounds
- Designed for speeds up to 15 mph
- Carries golf equipment and up to 2 people (they can/have been adapted to carry more people)

Low-Speed Vehicle (LSV) / Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) (CVC §385.5):

- 4-wheel motor vehicle
- Speeds between 20-25 mph
- Weighs less than 3,000 pounds
- Must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS)

LSVs/NEVs:

Street-legal with DMV registration, insurance, and licensed drivers only. Violations can result in a 30-day impound and citations for both the driver and parents allowing unlicensed children to drive.

Key Safety Requirements for LSVs/NEVs:

- Headlights
- Turn signal lamps (front and rear)
- Tail lights and brake lights
- Reflectors (front, rear, and sides)
- Mirrors (driver's side and either interior or passenger side)
- Parking brake
- DOT-approved windshield
- 17-digit VIN
- Seatbelts
- Backup camera

Children's Safety Matters:

Golf Carts: Illegal for children to ride on streets.

LSVs/NEVs: Subject to California's car seat and seat belt laws.

- Children under 2: Must use a rear-facing car seat unless 40+ pounds or 40+ inches.
- Children under 8: Must use a car seat or booster in the back seat.
- Children 8+ or 4'9" tall: Must use a safety belt, booster optional.
- 16+ years: Mandatory seat belt law applies.

Teen Driver Safety:

A teen's inexperience behind the wheel makes them more susceptible to crashes.

Risk factors for teen drivers include:

- Alcohol and drug use
- Not wearing a seat belt
- Distracted driving
- Additional passengers
- Speeding
- Reckless and drowsy driving

Street Legality:

Golf Carts: Generally not street-legal, except within 1 mile of a golf course.



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